

I-40/73 Greensboro Western Urban Loop Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the Greensboro Western Urban Loop located?

The 7.5-mile loop is located between I-40 and I-85 in southwest Guilford County. It is the fourth section of the planned Greensboro Urban Loop, which will form a 44-mile circle around the city once completed. Upon its opening, the Greensboro Western Urban Loop will be designated as I-40 and I-73 and will allow I-40 to be rerouted around the south side of Greensboro.

What will happen to the current I-40 once this new highway opens?

Once the I-40/73 Greensboro Western Urban Loop opens, I-40 will be rerouted around Greensboro along the new highway and the existing I-85 Bypass. The old highway will then be designated as I-40 Business. Crews will work to switch out signs and exit numbers to reflect the new name during the next few months.

Will any changes be made to I-85 through Greensboro?

No, other than updating signs to reflect the changes on I-40. The department will also add I-40 signs to the I-85 Bypass, which opened in February 2004, to reflect that the route will now carry both interstates.

I still see blue signs for I-40 along the old route. Isn't NCDOT changing these signs to the green I-40 Business signs?

NCDOT is in the process of replacing more than 80 blue I-40 signs with green I-40 Business signs. The department expects the signs to be completely replaced by late spring. First, the department will change signs along I-40 at both ends of the new route. The department will then change out signs along the shoulders of "old" I-40, followed by the large overhead signs and finally signs at and around the highway interchanges. Weather, traffic conditions and the number of signs that have to be made and installed are reasons why it will take several months to change out signs.

I saw signs for I-73 along the new I-40 Greensboro Western Urban Loop. What is this highway?

Planning for I-73 began in the early 1990s. It was approved by the U.S. Congress as a new interstate route from Sault Saint Marie, Mich. to Myrtle Beach, S.C. Each state along the proposed highway is responsible for planning, designing and building the highway in their state.

In September 2004, the N.C. Board of Transportation adopted the Strategic Highway Corridors Initiative to identify, protect and maximize the use of highway corridors that

play a critical role in regional or statewide mobility. That plan includes the development of I-73 through North Carolina.

The first two sections of I-73, shared with I-74, are open from Asheboro in Randolph County to just south of Ellerbe in Richmond County. I-73 will enter North Carolina from Virginia in Rockingham County. The highway will eventually extend south and connect with Bryan Boulevard near N.C. 68 and follow the Greensboro Urban Loop to U.S. 220 South. The interstate will then travel down the U.S. 220 corridor and exit North Carolina just west of Rockingham in Richmond County.

How do I access U.S. 220 Business from the new highway?

Motorists traveling on I-40 West/I-85 South can use the U.S. 220 exit (Exit 122) to access both directions of the highway.

Motorists traveling on I-40 East from Winston-Salem can access U.S. 220 South from the U.S. 220 South exit (Exit 220). Motorists traveling on I-40 East from Winston-Salem to U.S. 220 North must take I-85 Business North to U.S. 220 North (Exit 219).

Motorists traveling on I-85 North from Charlotte can access both directions of U.S. 220 by taking I-85 Business North (Exit 120A) to the U.S. 220 exit (Exit 35 A-B).

NCDOT